

CHICKEN ANTICE TIMBER SALE

March 16, 2009, Land Board

Location of Sale:

- Stillwater Unit (NWLO) – Approximately 15 air miles northwest of Whitefish, Montana.
- Flathead County - Section 14, T33N-R23W, Section 15, T33N-R23W, Section 23, T33N-R23W.
- 100% Common School Trust

Sale Volume & Estimated Value:

- The estimated volume is 7,742 tons of sawlogs at 5.6 inches diameter inside bark (DIB), or 1,420 MBF.
- The estimated minimum value is \$17.42/ton for stumpage and Forest Improvement on all merchantable sawlog timber harvested.
- 5.45 tons/MBF is the estimated conversion factor of 5.6 inches DIB.

Sale & Harvest Treatments:

- The sale consists of seven harvest units totaling 97 acres.
- The silvicultural prescriptions consist of a seedtree with reserves treatment, which will leave 6 to 12 trees per acre, favoring western larch, with a few scattered Douglas-fir, and healthy western white pine.
- Harvest units will have site preparation to promote western larch natural regeneration. In addition, approximately 92 acres will be planted with western white pine.
- 81 acres of old growth would be harvested.

Harvest Systems:

- 38% tractor
- 62% skyline

Road Construction:

- Approximately 0.8 mile of new road construction is required to access harvest units. Of this new construction, 0.6 miles of roads will be closed or returned to near-natural contour following harvesting operations.
- Reconstruction on approximately 2.8 miles of existing roads is required to meet current Best Management Practices.
- Current road restrictions will remain in place to maintain wildlife security, reduce the spread of noxious weeds, and minimize future maintenance costs.

Public Involvement & Issues:

- Public involvement was solicited through a legal notice in the Whitefish Pilot, a weekly newspaper. Letters were sent to adjacent landowners and special interest groups. The public, DNRC specialists, and specialists from other agencies helped identify the issues that were analyzed.
- Three comments were received in regards to this project. A concern was raised about sediment into Swift Creek from harvesting operations; however, this was analyzed and mitigated through project design. Concern was raised in regards to access to slash piles

postharvest. This request has been accommodated by leaving landings open for one year near open roads. The last comment was a form letter that raised issues; however, these issues had been considered during project design and covered by the Forest Management Rules.

Issues & Mitigations:

- **Old Growth** - This issue was analyzed in the Environmental Analysis. Currently this stand is losing volume and value due to insects and disease. Although 81 acres of old growth would be harvested, this proposal would shift treated acres towards desired species. Postharvest, an estimated 10 trees, greater than 18 inches diameter at breast height, will remain on approximately 50 acres of the harvested old growth.

This timber sale will decrease the total amount of old growth in Stillwater State Forest 0.1 percent. This harvest along with other timber sales scheduled for FY 2009 will reduce the amount of old growth from 10.1 percent to 9.9 percent on Stillwater State Forest.

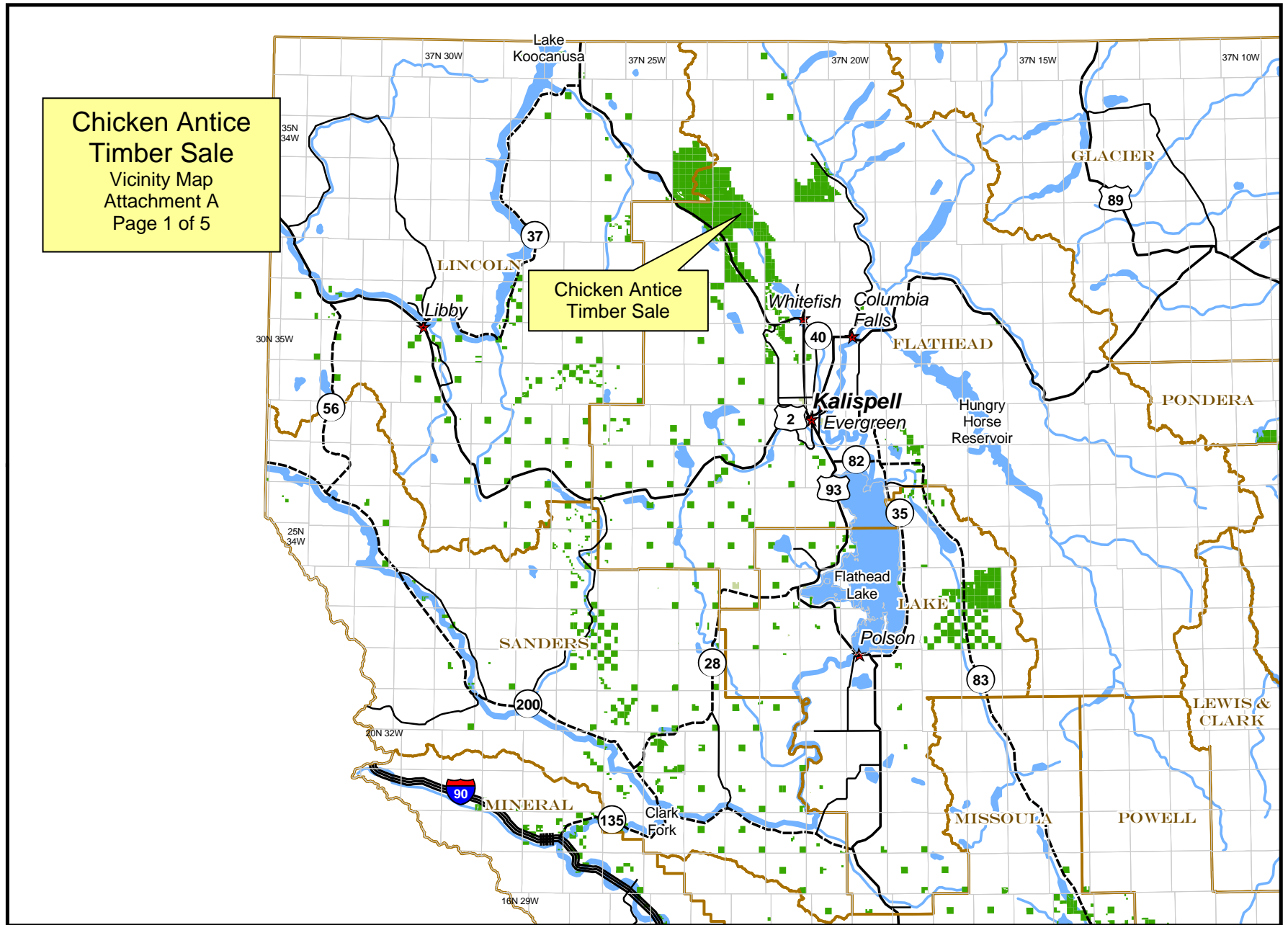
- **Noxious Weeds** - By using an integrated weed-management plan, the spread of weeds would be limited by the following:
 - Off-road equipment used for felling, skidding, log-processing, and loading activities would be washed and inspected before being brought on site.
 - All disturbed areas would be grass seeded.
 - The project area would be monitored and, if needed, scheduled for follow-up herbicide treatment.
- **Wildlife** - The project area is within the Grizzly bear core habitat. However, operations will take place during the denning season (November 15 to March 31) to minimize disturbance. Furthermore, the retention of shrubs and trees along the roads should limit sight distances; the road restrictions will remain unchanged, thereby maintaining security for grizzly bears and other wildlife. Hunter access will not change with the action alternative.
- **Fisheries** - Although westslope cutthroat trout are present in the streams associated with this timber sale, by following laws and rules for Streamside Management Zones and Riparian Management Zones, the risk factors affecting fisheries habitat was determined to be low.

The Director recommends the Land Board direct the Department to sell the Chicken/Antice Timber Sale.

Chicken Antice Timber Sale

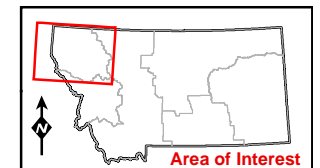
Vicinity Map
Attachment A
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Chicken Antice
Timber Sale



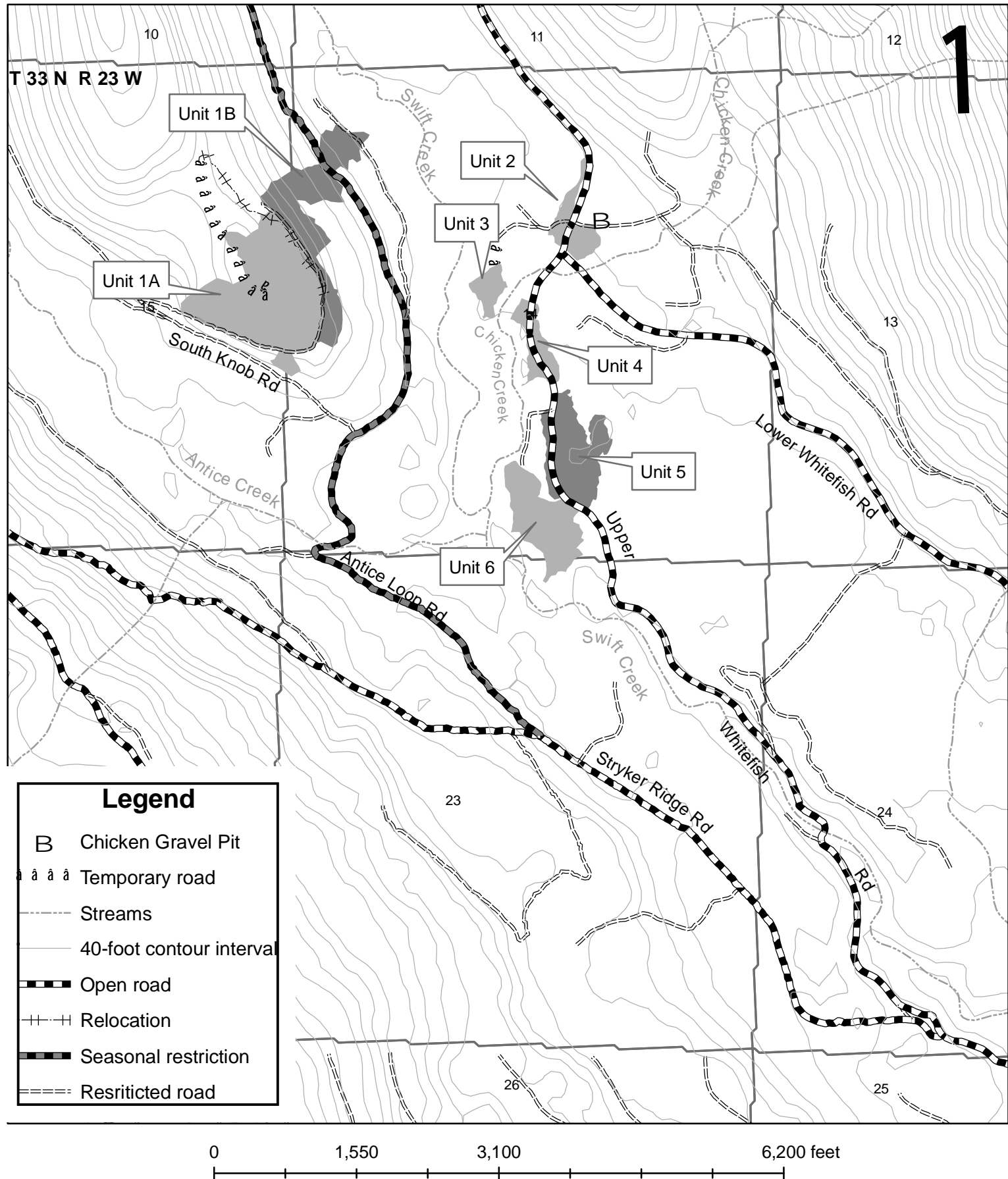
	Interstate Highway		Rivers		Lakes
	U.S. Route		City		DNRC managed for timber
	State Highway		County		DNRC other
	Secondary Roads				Township/Range

21 February 2007
Montana DNRC
Technical Services Section/dr



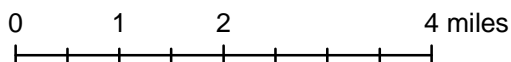
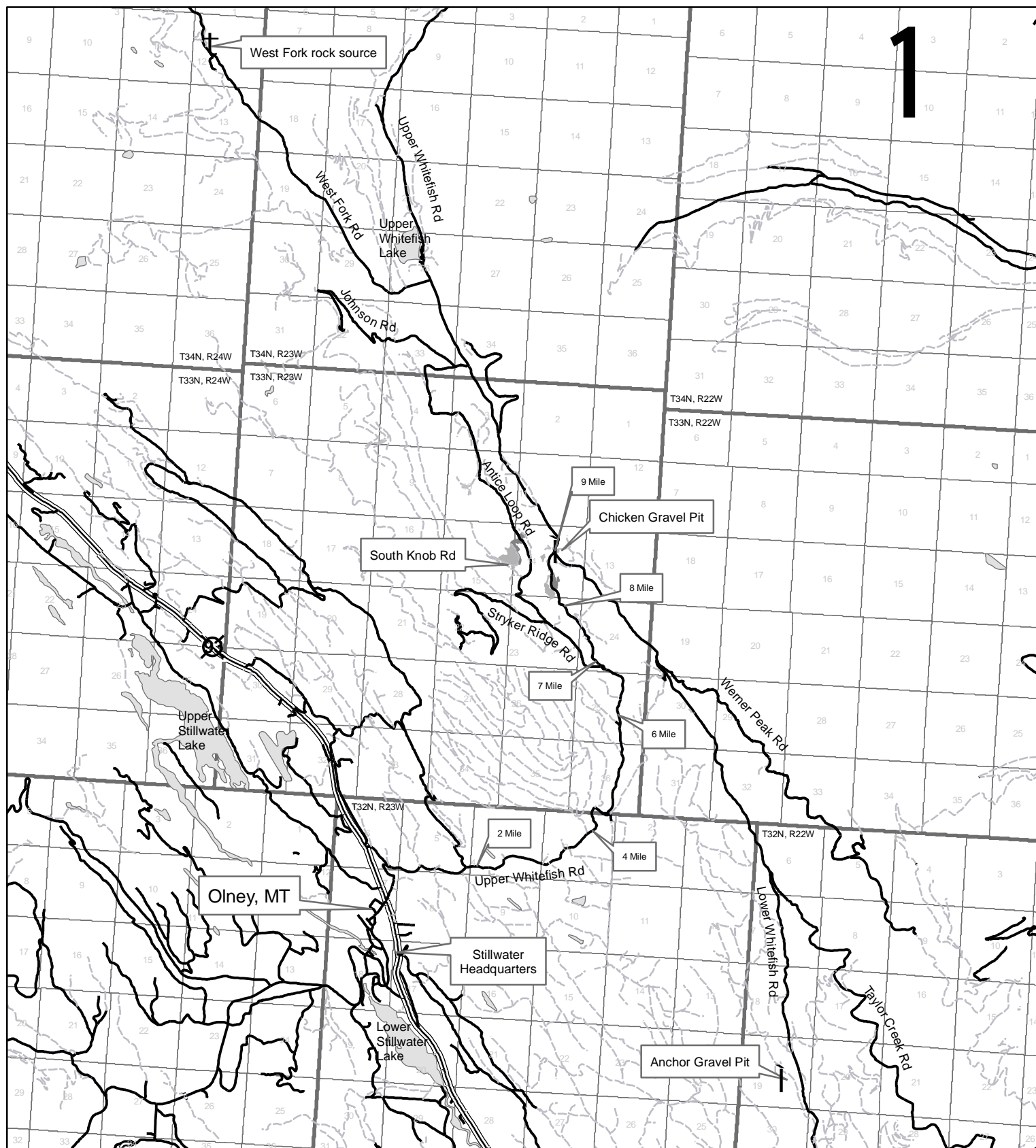
Chicken/Antice Timber Sale

Attachment A - 2 of 5



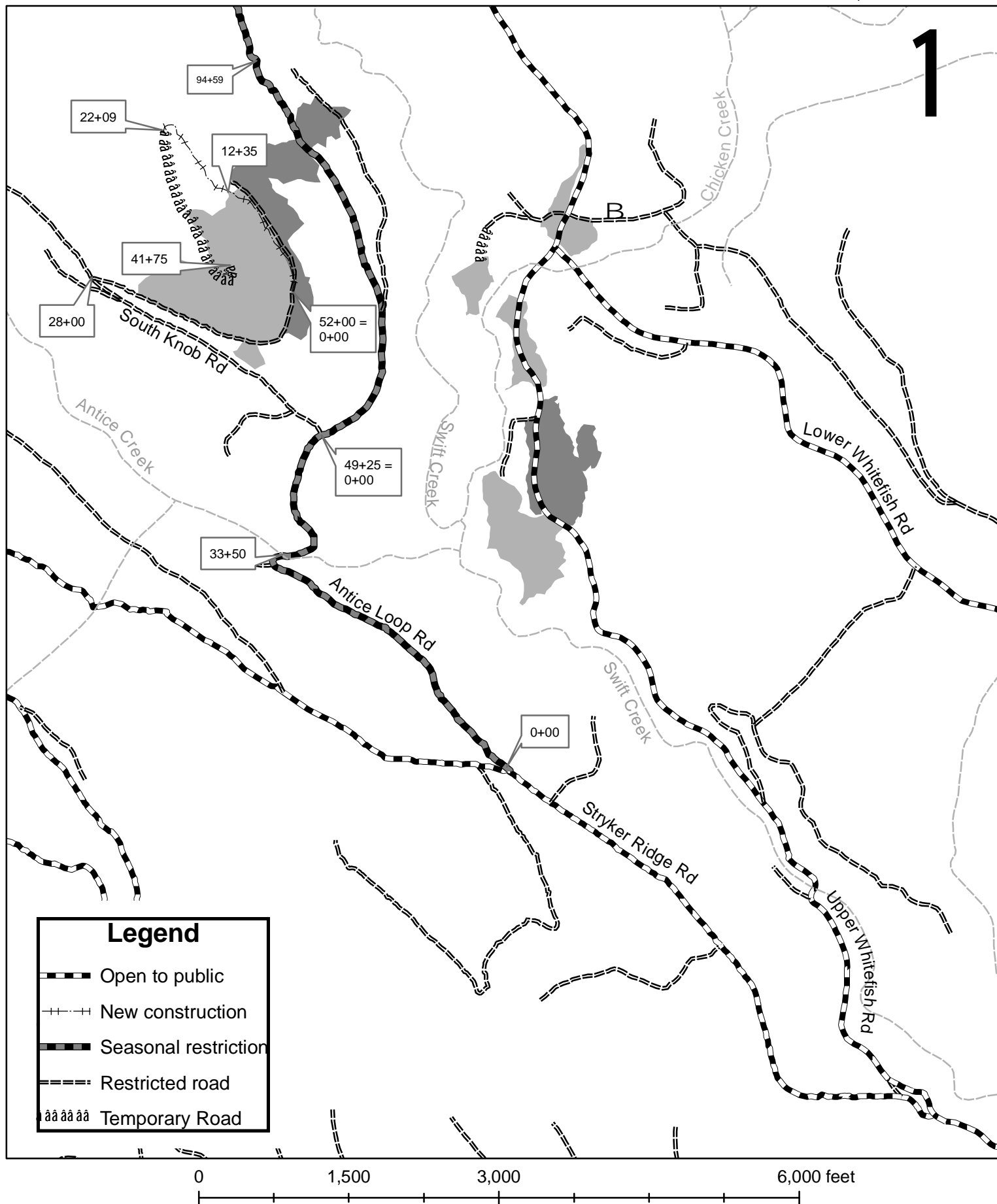
Chicken/Antice Timber Sale Rock/Haul Map

Attachment A - 3 of 5



Chicken/Antice Timber Sale Road Map

Attachment A - 4 of 5



South Knob Road Deactivation Attachment A - 5 of 5

